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Unwind by Neal Shusterman

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Author: Shusterman, Neal

Title: *Unwind*

Year of Publication: 2007

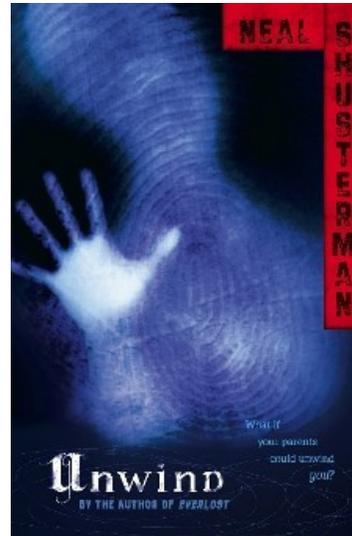
Publisher: Simon & Schuster

ISBN: 9781416912040

Number of Pages: 335

Rating: Outstanding

Reading/Interest Level: Young Adult



Keywords: Dystopia; Horror; Fiction; Death; Survival; Revolution; Teenagers

Review:

In Connor's world, unwanted children have a right to life, but only until they are thirteen years old, when their parents can have them "unwound" and turned into human donors. When Connor learns that his parents are going to have him unwound, he makes a bold escape, inadvertently freeing Risa, a fellow unwind, and Lev, a tithe who is being unwound as a religious sacrifice. The three make their way to a sanctuary for unwinds, where Lev plots revenge against society and Connor and Risa find their own futures. But when things go awry, Connor is on the verge of being unwound, and Lev must choose whether to destroy or save lives to make a statement.

Unwind is a dynamic dystopian novel that will spark conversation about controversial issues like abortion, the right to life, and the nature of the soul. Shusterman creates a familiar yet futuristic society that shows readers just how adept humans are at justifying all manner of horrors. Although the frequent introduction of new perspectives makes it difficult to strongly identify with any one character, the forward momentum of the plot keeps readers engrossed as characters move through a whirlwind of settings and events. Mature subject matter and some violence make this book best suited for older readers, who will find it an excellent catalyst for writing and debate about real-world moral and philosophical problems.

Reviewer: Lauren E. Johnson

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